

10 Southwell Gardens London SW

23 March

My dear Gray I need not tell you that I read with great pleasure your encouraging notice of my little Audéan paper - I have not succeeded in attracting notice to my speculations among English naturalists & though I have been somewhat pattered on the back by Ch. Naudin & one or two more on the continent, ~~but~~ it is great promotion to be smiled upon by a man of your authority -

I have another small paper going through the press, & have been striving to finish a little book growing out of my S. American Tour - in which there will be very little botany but a good deal about those physical problems which affect plant distribution in the part as well as

the present - but it has been uphill work, for I have been far from well, coughing till my head ached intolerably, & altogether below par - All the while I have been devouring that very remarkable memoir by your astronomer Langley on Solar Radiation I think that I wrote to you about it since then I have been able to borrow it and am full of admiration. It seems to me one of the best & most solid pieces of work in physics that has been accomplished for a long time - keen criticism of the work done by his predecessors & by himself - Extraordinary care - perseverance & enterprise - philosophic judgement & caution - all present -

I have been trying to use his results & have covered pages with calculations most of which on close scrutiny I have had to reject - the net result so far as my book goes will be a little table in the appendix which

at the best will be no more than a rough approximation

Hooker has been fretting himself about the Linnæan Society here which has fallen into the hands of rather inferior men - He has been anxious to bring about the election of Dyer as President - He would be the right man, & would I have no doubt be able to improve the society very much, but the Brit. Mus. people hate him & ~~his~~ he is resolved not to have a contest & will not be nominated - For himself he is right but it is a pity that things should be so -

After further delay owing to my being laid up the parcel of S. American plants is at last on its way to you -

My wife joins in kindest greetings to you & Mrs Gray
I am getting quite right
again
Ever yours
J. Wall